

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PAWTUCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 6:00 PM

Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center

350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Minutes

I. Meeting will come to order

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, called the special meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

a. Roll Call

Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Araujo-here

Also in attendance were Ms. Patricia DiCenso, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kathleen Suriani, Elementary School Performance Officer, Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer and Ms. Mary Parella, Director of the COZ Program

Mr. Coughlin, Mr. Tenreiro and legal counsel were not in attendance.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Participation

Comments from the public are invited at this time. Citizens wishing to speak should sign in with the Committee Chair before speaking.

The Committee is precluded from discussing or acting on items raised by Public Comment, which are not already on the agenda. Public comment will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

None

III. Old Business-Action Item

a. Approval of Pawtucket Graduation Waiver Policy, 2nd Reading

Ms. DiCenso: After the first reading, Mr. Tenreiro recommended some changes and that we take the forms off. Those recommendations have been made and we have brought it back to you for your approval of the 2nd reading of the Pawtucket Graduation Waiver Policy.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the 2nd Reading of the Pawtucket Graduation Waiver Policy. Ms. Cano seconded.

Voice vote carried five in favor.

IV. New Business-Action Items

a. Approval of Project Coordinator – Carol White Physical Education Program Grant

Ms. DiCenso: Mary Parello, our Coz Director has the magic pen for writing grants and this was a very large undertaking. We are asking your approval to use some of this money to hire someone as a project coordinator.

Ms. Parella: One program we went after was the Carol White PEP project to enhance our after school program for after school and

summer program such as how many steps to take with a pedometer and the academic presidential fitness award; fruits and vegetables; health and wellness for all physical education teachers in the district. This is all voluntary and not mandated. Our physical education teachers, food service workers and custodians have all volunteered. We hope it will be funded for three years. If we could appoint the person we put before you, Jordan Dunne, the grant would come together and we could start working on the necessary reports immediately.

Ms. Nordquist: Are all schools going to benefit?

Ms. Parella: That's a two part answer. The scope of the project and data we are targeting is eight schools. We wrote the grant once before with six schools and didn't get it. The eight schools are not all of our COZ schools. We wanted to impact as many kids as possible. Professional development is open to everyone. The teachers from the eight targeted schools and four other are participating in "drums alive" with zumba with drums.

Ms. Cano: Could you tell us what schools are involved?

Ms. Parella: Cunningham; Baldwin; Varieur; Greene; Slater; Jenks; Little and Winters.

Ms. Cano: How many kids?

Ms. Parella: Eight hundred and fifty kids right now in the targeted data. Three hundred students in the first year and two hundred students in the years after that. Every student would be technically in the program—Spark Program and Drums Alive.

Ms. Nordquist: How long is the grant for?

Ms. Parella: We have three years to achieve our marks. The first report is due on March 30th and this is my 20th anniversary and that grant was for one year.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the appointment of Jordan Dunne as the PEP Grant Coordinator. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes

Motion carried five in favor.

b. Approval of Non Renewals/Teacher Terminations

Ms. DiCenso: To be in compliance with the Rhode Island State Law we must notice teachers by March 1 whether they're contract will be non renewed or terminated. This year we have a list of 57 teacher non-renewals/terminations before you for your approval.

Ms. Nordquist: It's great that the list is a lot smaller and less stressful on the teachers and their families.

Ms. DiCenso: Thank you for noticing that. We sat down and worked diligently and did not want to over-stress the system unnecessarily.

Tonight we are recommending the following teacher non-renewals/terminations for your approval:

Colette O'Brien

Gregory Clark

Judith O'Neill

Susan Farrell

Kasey Murray

Melinda Stachelek

Joseph Palazzo

Jennifer Glode

Corey Masse

Brian Kampper

Elizabeth Metfooney

Jodi Beth Mokillo

Nicole Dupont

Miriam Gamache

Christina Banville

Bradford Cabral

Rita Rancourt

Katie Desrosiers

Corey Martin

Randy Forst

Kayla Fleming

Jennifer Carney

Katie Pezold

Shannon Mulcahey

Madeline Chisholm

Kristen Giroux

Ashlee Burns

Jenna Caccia

Elizabeth Keough

Renee Brannigan

Andrew Maigret

Andrew Bevilacqua

Andrea Pepicelli

Jennifer Blanchard

Leigh Murphy

Lisa Greenhalgh

James Reynolds

Mauria Serio

Kaitlyn Potts

David Girard

Paul Cirillo, Jr.

Kelly Barone

Alexandra Braga

Bianca Cafaro

Michelle Bucacci

Benjamin Masse

Anabela Olsen

Derrick Garforth

Alice Kelly

C. Richard Koster, Jr.

Matthew Tessitore

Brianne Burbank

Ashlee Whitehead

Molly Hammell

Anne Lagace

John Egan

Elizabeth Dubois

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the certified non-renewals/terminations as recommended by interim Superintendent, Ms. DiCenso. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes

Motion carries five in favor.

c. Approval of Pawtucket School District Wellness Policy, 1st Reading

Ms. DiCenso: This is the first reading of the Wellness Policy that puts us in compliance with Rhode Island mandates. My colleagues, Kathy and Committee woman, Ms. Bonollo and members of the community worked diligently on this policy and it was vetted by legal counsel.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the first reading of the Pawtucket School District Wellness Policy. Ms. Cano seconded.

Voice vote carried five in favor.

Ms. Bonollo: I want to thank Kathy Suriani or all her hard work on this policy.

Mr. Araujo: I too, would like to thank Ms. Suriani, Ms. DiCenso, Ms. Bonollo and the Committee on all of their hard work.

V. Interim Superintendent's Report

Ms. DiCenso: I want to thank Dennis Rebelo and his staff for helping with the emergency at Slater. As a result, we were able to open school on time on Monday and this included your cooperation as well.

We have a lot of great events coming up, stay posted.

VI. Special Reports of School Committee Members

Ms. Bonollo: We finished the Power of One fund raising event, but we still have five schools that have not reported. We have raised \$3,300 and we need to raise \$11,000 before the end of the year and we need \$40,000 per year to operate at the rate we are currently.

We reached out to the Community Food Bank and they want \$10.00 per student and we can't afford that. If anyone knows a retiree who wants to deliver as of Thursday, we need another driver.

We have the Walk-a-Thon on Mother's Day coming up in May.

We'll be on Sandra's radio show on Thursday.

We don't know who won the dance yet.

Have a good night.

Ms. Cano: Thank you for your hard work to get school open for the parents. Have a good night.

Ms. Nordquist: I just want to announce that the Tolman Boys' Wrestling made the State Finals and that is the first time in history.

Thank you all for coming, have a good night.

Mr. Spooner: I find it pleasant to look over there and to see Christina smiling. Truly, I do. It's a refreshing change. That's it.

Mr. Araujo: I'd just like to reiterate what a great job by Mr. Rebelo and his staff. I'm very happy to hear that the kids and staff are safe. That is always paramount. Thank you for all that you do. Have a good night.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Spooner moved to adjourn. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carries five in favor.

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, adjourned the special meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee of Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved 3/11/14